

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SSM-03 ACDA-12
OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
AID-05 HA-05 /125 W
-----083477 120544Z /15

R 111615Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7849
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION SINAI
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PEPR MOPS PBOR EG LE IS US
SUBJECT: PRESS TREATMENT: ISRAELI CLUSTER BOMB USE/
- WITHDRAWAL FROM LEBANON

REF: CAIRO 10418

SUMMARY. PRESS APRIL 11 DEPICTS ISRAEL ON DEFENSIVE ON
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CBU ISSUE AND LEBANESE WITHDRAWAL, AND URGES U.S. TO APPLY
MORE PRESSURE. GUMHURIYYA SAYS IT "IMPERATIVE" U.S.
SHIFT FROM "MORAL CONDEMNATIONS" TO "EFFECTIVE PRESSURE"
ON ISRAEL. PRIVATELY, MFA OFFICIALS INCREASINGLY
APPREHENSIVE THAT GOI USING WITHDRAWAL CARD TO DETRIMENT
OF EGYPT. END SUMMARY.

1. CLUSTER BOMBS. AHAM PROMINENTLY COVERS ISRAEL'S "OFFICIAL" ACKNOWLEDGEMENT THAT SHE USED CLUSTER BOMBS IN SOUTH LEBANON "AGAINST CIVILIANS". STORY REITERATES WEIZMAN'S ALLEGED APOLOGY TO AMBASSADOR LEWIS AND FACT THAT U.S. CONSIDERS USE OF CBU'S AS VIOLATION OF AMERICAN LAW. AHAM JUXTAPOSES ISRAELI MILITARY SPOKESMAN'S EARLIER STATEMENT THAT CBU'S WERE USED AGAINST PALESTINIAN ARTILLERY POSITIONS, WHICH HAD BEEN SHELLING ISRAELI VILLAGES, WITH FOREIGN PRESS REPORTS THAT UNEXPLODED CBU'S WERE FOUND NEAR ONE OF THE REFUGEE CAMPS. GUMHURIYYA EDITORIAL NOTES AMERICAN CONDEMNATION OF CBU USE, SAYING IT NOW BECOMES "IMPERATIVE" THAT U.S. MOVE FROM "MERE MORAL CONDEMNATIONS" AND "ACCEPTANCE OF APOLOGIES" TO "EFFECTIVE EXERCISE OF U.S. PRESSURE" ON ISRAEL THROUGH ECONOMIC AND ARMS ASSISTANCE.

2. LEBANON WITHDRAWAL. AHAM PROMINENTLY REPORTS UNSC DECISION TO POSTPONE DEBATE 48 HOURS TO SEE TO WHAT EXTENT ISRAEL COMPLIES. STORIES ALSO REPORT WALDHEIM STATEMENT THAT "UNLESS SUBSTANTIAL ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL" TAKES PLACE, UNIFIL CANNOT CARRY OUT ITS MISSION IN FULL. SIILASVUO NOW CONTACTING ISRAELI GOVERNMENT TO CARRY OUT RESOLUTION "WITHOUT DELAY". IN MEANWHILE, FORMIN KAMEL WELCOMED EEC STATEMENT REAFFIRMING EEC CONDEMNATION OF ISRAELI AGGRESSION. GUMHURIYYA MENTIONED U.S. DEFENSE SECRETARY BROWN'S STATEMENT THAT ISRAEL MUST LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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"EXPEDITE" PULLOUT OF HER FORCES. AHAM EDITORIAL ACCUSES ISRAEL OF OCCUPYING LEBANON AS CARD IN PEACE PROCESS SAYING THAT IF ISRAEL REALLY WANTED TO WITHDRAW IT WOULD DO SO. IF ISRAEL IN LEBANON TO STAY, EDITORIAL CONTINUES, "A CLEAR-CUT INTERNATIONAL STAND" AND A "POSITIVE ARAB STAND" MUST BE ADOPTED AGAINST THIS AGGRESSION.

3. COMMENT: PRIVATELY, MFA OFFICIALS BECOMING INCREASINGLY APPREHENSIVE THAT ISRAELIS USING WITHDRAWAL CARD AS MEANS OF DEFLECTING U.S. PRESSURE ON PEACE PROCESS AND OF CEMENTING THEIR INFORMAL ALLIANCE WITH CHRISTIAN FORCES, THEREBY UNDERMINING LEBANESE GOVT'S ABILITY TO EVER ESTABLISH INTERNAL STABILITY. EILTS

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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TAGS: PEPR, MOPS, PBOR, EG, LE, IS, US
To: STATE
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20 Mar 2014
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